

REPORT

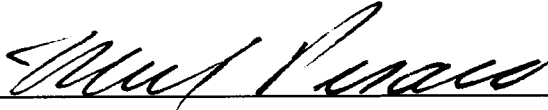
DATE: January 5, 2005

TO: Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Jacob Lieb, Acting Lead Regional Planner, (213) 236-1921, lieb@scag.ca.gov
Solid Waste Task Force

SUBJECT: Renew LA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Support the Renew LA Program.

SUMMARY

The Renew LA program is a proposed effort led by Councilman Greig Smith to develop Conversion Technologies for Solid Waste in the City of Los Angeles. The Regional Council has taken various positions in support of conversion technologies. The Solid Waste Task Force has recommended that the Regional Council send a letter to the City of Los Angeles in support of the Renew LA effort.

BACKGROUND:

Solid Waste management and disposal continues to be a serious issue facing the Southern California region. At present, there is not sufficient land fill capacity to meet needs associated with anticipated growth. At the same time, siting new landfill facilities is increasingly difficult due to neighborhood concerns.

Conversion technologies, which convert solid waste to usable materials, including waste to energy present an opportunity for innovative solutions to waste disposal. The City of Los Angeles, through the Renew LA program, proposes a long term action plan, including policy, technology development, and best practices to move from waste disposal to resource recovery.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action. SCAG's activities in solid waste planning are included in the Overall Work Program as part of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (06-035.scgs1)

Attachment:

Renew LA Fact Sheet



TOGETHER WE CAN R.E.N.E.W. LA

By Councilman Greig Smith

I've written often of my staunch opposition to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, which is located in my district and takes the total of LA's residential waste, some 3500 tons-per-day – as well as all landfills in an urbanized setting. I have spent more than twenty years fighting landfilling in one way or another. I was a founding member of "Dump the Dump," (now known as The North Valley Coalition) and served on Mayor Hahn's Landfills Oversight Committee where I chaired the Future Alternative

Technologies subcommittee. I became aware of conversion technologies and their potential to create useful products, including clean, renewable energy, from waste. Since then, I have traveled to Europe and locally to study and tour operational facilities and have spent time in Sacramento lobbying the Waste Board and State Legislature on the benefits of conversion technologies and resource recovery.

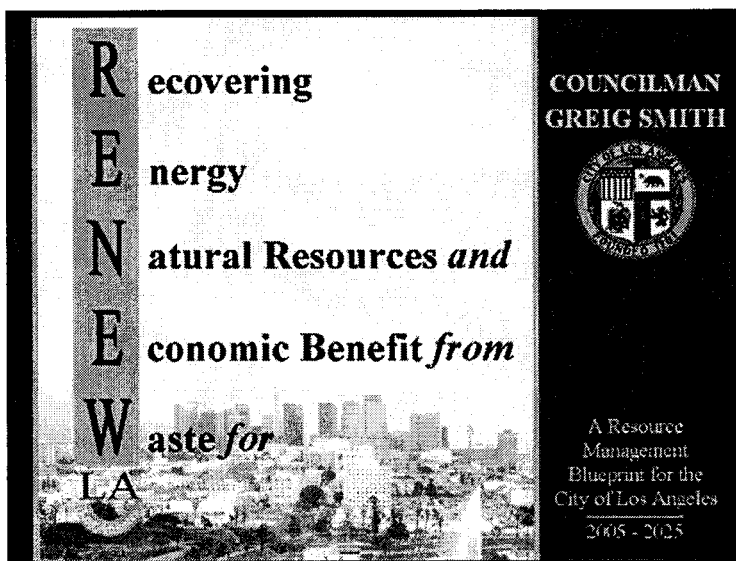
Nobody wants a landfill in their backyard. I've been saying forever, that landfills are a 2000-year old "technology" that causes

environmental harm while wasting valuable resources. At the same time, there has never been a comprehensive plan to rid the City of its dependence on them. We hear a lot of talk about rail haul to remote desert landfills, or long distance truck transfer, but all this does is export the problem to someone else's backyard while causing serious air pollution along the route.

Last month, I unveiled my R.E.N.E.W. LA plan to end landfilling in Los Angeles, while maximizing resource recovery, reuse and recycling. My plan is a

"resource management blueprint" for the City of Los Angeles, and proposes a paradigm shift in which trash is no longer viewed as waste to be managed, but as a source of valuable, reusable commodities.

R.E.N.E.W. LA stands for: Recovering Energy, Natural Resources and Economic Benefit from Waste for Los Angeles. This monumental plan creates the roadmap for Los Angeles to become the country's leading innovator in dealing with its trash. R.E.N.E.W. LA is a 400+ page document that contains a policy package



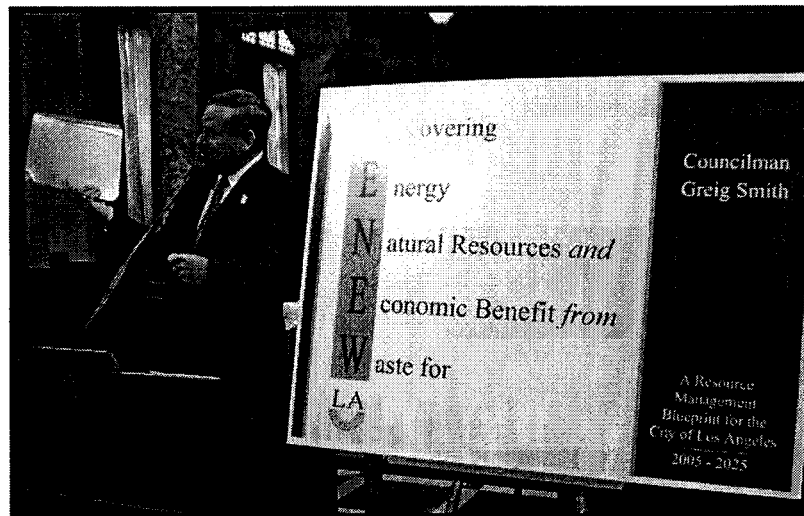
including fourteen legislative motions to accelerate its goals of maximum resource recovery, an end to landfilling and the creation of clean, renewable energy. The plan has been two years in the making.

R.E.N.E.W. LA is a twenty-year action plan, created with the input of environmental, business and community leaders. It raises the bar from compliance with current 50% AB 939-mandated landfill diversion levels, to a goal of "Zero Waste" that emphasizes sustainability and environmental protection while creating economic benefits, including job creation. The plan comes with its own oversight committee to enact, guide and adapt the plan, long after my term in office.

The plan expands recycling programs, particularly in the business and multi-family sectors. There are proposals to offer tax incentives to businesses that locate in Los Angeles and use City-collected trash as a feedstock for a manufacturing process.

Businesses could also benefit financially if they significantly reduce or eliminate their waste. R.E.N.E.W. LA also proposes a revised City procurement policy in which highest and best use, reduced toxicity and conservation of resources will be prioritized.

Conversion technologies figure prominently in R.E.N.E.W. LA because they convert waste into clean, renewable energy. The City has set a 20% goal for renewable energy by the year 2017 and R.E.N.E.W. LA proposes partnerships between the Bureau of Sanitation, the DWP and private industry to help meet these goals. Conversion technologies can also be used to create valuable chemicals, alternative fuels, soil amendments and other feedstocks for manufacturing, reducing the need for virgin resources. Use of alternative fuels reduces green house gasses and harmful emissions while decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels and foreign oil sources.



If you would like to read more about R.E.N.E.W. LA, the Executive Summary and Synopsis are available on my website by clicking <http://www.lacity.org/CD12>. In the coming months, I will be traveling throughout the City to present my plan. If you are interested in receiving more information, please contact my office at 213-473-7012.

Together we truly can end our dependence on landfilling while preserving resources, decreasing pollution and increasing our energy sustainability.